I/WE CLAIM:

1. A theft deterrent device for use in a motor vehicle, comprising:

a baseplate adapted to be secured to a motor vehicle, said baseplate having a plurality of baseplate apertures;

a housing adapted to be secured to said baseplate, said housing having a plurality of housing apertures that are less in number than said baseplate apertures and are alignable with said baseplate apertures in a plurality of different positions relative thereto;

a gear-stick embracing element adapted to be secured to said housing for movement relative to said housing, said gear-stick embracing element defining a passage through which a gear stick of a motor vehicle may pass; and

a lock operably connected to at least one of said housing and said gear-stick embracing element, said lock being adapted to engage the other of said housing and said gear-stick embracing element to prevent movement of said gear-stick embracing element with respect to said housing.

2. A device according to Claim 1 further comprising:

a housing fastener having a first end that is received by one of said plurality of housing apertures and a second end that is received by an aligned one of said plurality of baseplate apertures to thereby secure said housing to said baseplate.

3. A device according to Claim 2 wherein said baseplate has a plurality of baseplate bores for receiving a corresponding number of baseplate fasteners to thereby mount said baseplate to the motor vehicle.

4. A device according to Claim 3, wherein said baseplate fasteners comprise shear headed bolts.

5. A device according to Claim 2 wherein said housing fastener comprises a shear headed bolt.

6. A device according to Claim 1, wherein said lock comprises

a key operated body;

a drivable pinion operably connected to said key operated body; and

a locking bolt engaged with said pinion such that actuation of said key operated body moves said locking bolt in a direction

generally axial to said pinion and between an extended position with respect to said housing and a retracted position with respect to said housing.

7. A device according to Claim 6 wherein said key operated body is located in said gear-stick embracing element, and said extended position of said locking bolt extends said locking bolt into a bore located in said housing.

8. A device according to Claim 6 wherein said key operated body is located in said housing, and said extended position of said locking bolt extends said locking bolt into a groove located in said gear-stick embracing element.

9. A device according to Claim 1 wherein said housing comprises a substantially cylindrical wall having an upper edge with an upper housing groove formed therein and an inwardly directed flange extending from said wall, said inwardly directed flange having an undersurface with a lower housing groove formed therein.

10. A device according to Claim 9 wherein said gear-stick embracing element comprises:

a substantially cylindrical upper component having a top portion and a lower portion that is inwardly stepped with respect to said top portion thereby forming a downwardly facing step surface of said upper component;

a step surface groove formed in said downwardly facing step surface and facing said upper housing groove; and

a lower component adapted to be secured to said upper component.

11. A device according to Claim 10 wherein said lower portion of said gear-stick embracing element is received within said housing.

12. A device according to Claim 10 further comprising ball races engaged in a raceway formed by said upper housing groove and said step surface groove, thereby rendering said gear-stick embracing element rotatable relative to said housing.

13. A device according to Claim 10 wherein said upper and lower components are secured together by shear headed bolts.

14. A device according to Claim 10 wherein said lower component comprises an upwardly extending flange adapted to be

secured to said upper component, an outwardly extending flange, and a flange groove located in said outwardly extending flange and facing said lower housing groove.

15. A device according to Claim 14 further comprising ball races engaged in a raceway formed by said lower housing groove and said flange groove, thereby rendering said gear-stick embracing element rotatable relative to said housing.

16. A device according to Claim 1 wherein said passage comprises a first slot having a first axis and a width slightly in excess of the width of said gear stick, and a second slot, having a second axis substantially perpendicular to said first axis and having a width slightly greater than the width of said gear stick.

17. A device according to Claim 1 wherein said housing has a wall in which a bore is formed, said lock is mounted on said gear-stick embracing element, and is adapted to drive a locking bolt from a retracted position in which said element is free to rotate, to an extended position in which said locking bolt is partly received within said bore, thus preventing rotation of said gear-stick embracing element.

18. A device according to Claim 1 wherein said gear-stick embracing element is secured within said housing.

19. A device according to Claim 18 wherein said housing defines a semi-spherical recess, said gear-stick embracing element has a semi-spherical exterior surface, and is received within said semi-spherical recess of said housing.

20. A device according to Claim 19 wherein

said gear-stick embracing element has a groove; and

said lock comprises a key operated body received within said housing and a locking bolt adapted to be driven by said key operated body from a retracted position to an extended position in which said locking bolt extends at least partly into said groove in said gear-stick embracing element.

21. A device according to Claim 20 wherein said groove is an equatorial groove.

22. A device according to Claim 19 wherein said housing has a plurality of housing apertures adapted to receive a first end of at least one housing fastener, and said baseplate has a

plurality of baseplate apertures to receive a second end of said at least one housing fastener to secure said housing to said baseplate.

23. A device according to Claim 22 wherein said baseplate has a plurality of baseplate bores for receiving at least one baseplate fastener.

24. A device according to Claim 1 wherein said gear-stick embracing element is secured on said housing.

25. A device according to Claim 1, wherein said housing apertures are formed in an underside of said housing and said housing is secured to said baseplate by at least one housing fastener having a first end received by one of said housing apertures in said underside and a second end received by an aligned one of said baseplate apertures.